

UNDOUBTEDLY, IN VIEW OF TODAY'S REPORTS OF FURTHER DISTURBANCES, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA WILL WISH TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE.

WE WELCOME THE ACCESSION OF TURKEY TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE, WHICH WILL HELP THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS. ALL OF THESE ARE DIFFERENT, BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT, STEPS FORWARD. THEY DEMONSTRATE ON THE PART OF THE STATES CONCERNED AN INCREASING ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULT AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. BY COOPERATING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THEY HELP ENSURE THAT PROGRESS ATTAINED WILL NOT BE REVERSED.

ONE KEY AREA ON WHICH MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IS THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION IN DEALING WITH STATES IN PERIODS OF TRANSITION. WE HAVE POINTED OUT IN THE PAST HOW IMPORTANT IT MIGHT BE IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.N. HAD A SPECTRUM OF EXPERTISE, RANGING FROM THE PURELY INVESTIGATORY POWERS OF SOME OF THE CURRENT SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS TO THE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SKILLS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO LEND ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES EMERGING FROM DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. HAITI WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SUCH SITUATIONS DRAWN TO THE COMMISSION'S ATTENTION SOME THREE YEARS AGO. THE SITUATION OF BURMA AT THE PRESENT TIME CLEARLY WARRANTS AN INITIAL CONTACT BETWEEN ITS